

The Youth Ranch is a residential treatment/children's home serving dependent, neglected, abandoned and abused males. Through this family style residential program, a child is in a "family" setting, learns self-worth and self-reliance, and has opportunities for social and cultural opportunities which promote personal growth. This setting may shield a child from developing problem behaviors, including alcohol and drugs. Ranch works with **MAP Academy**, an alternative school, by having full-time staff onsite to work with the kids needing counseling or other services. MAP Academy also offers parenting education through some of its various programs.

In addressing the alcohol and drug issue, the Council identified other important resources and points of interest:

- Cumberland University is working with the YMCA to discuss using students to fulfill volunteer requirements.
- Cumberland University is a resource that could be used to help fill the "void" that may exist with summer programs.
- Cumberland University's Wellness Center is working with a "wellness ministry", to promote alcohol and drug prevention. Leaders from the Church of Christ, Episcopal, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Catholic, Baptist and Methodist churches in the county are working with the Wellness Center to help meet the spiritual needs of students and promote alcohol and drug prevention. The Wellness Center itself already focuses on the medical and emotional needs of students. The ministry holds seminars on campus every other Thursday which relate to twelve step programs, spirituality, and other issues.
- There is an active Youth Leadership Wilson, which uses 3 juniors from each high school to learn about their community.
- There is a group of ministers working on AIDS prevention for children. This may be of interest, as the Council relates the alcohol and drug problems to increases in STDs.
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)
- Awareness Campaign in Lebanon – According to the Mayor of Lebanon, the initial campaign involved billboards targeted at parents ("Do you know where your kids are?"). Subsequently, flyers in grocery bags and pizza boxes have been distributed to the residents of Lebanon. The flyers display a heart and a big checkmark and include a list of drug-use symptoms to help parents recognize signs in their children.
- There is a proposal for a community center in Lebanon, which will offer managed weekend activities for the area's youth.
- According to the Sheriff's office, a "Juvenile Crime Stopline" is presently being developed..
- The Wilson County Civic league organizes various programs for members of Wilson County, including a drug awareness and teen pregnancy programs.
- The Wilson County Health Department provides health education to patients, schools, and community groups upon request, which may include drug and alcohol prevention. The Health Department also provides many services which help children get a healthy start, thus reducing the risk for problem behaviors such as alcohol and drug use. These services include prenatal services and HUG (home visits for high risk and teen pregnancies).